

CLAIMS:

1. A flexible coupling for connecting a drive to a driven shaft, the coupling comprising an annular body of a mouldable material in which fastener means are incorporated whereby the coupling may be fastened to the shafts, the fastener means comprising an even number of parallel bores circumferentially distributed about said body, each bore opening to opposite sides of the body, a plurality of link means passing around each bore and extending at least one to the adjacent bore in one direction from said first-mentioned bore and at least one to the adjacent bore in the other direction from said first-mentioned bore, and washer means on opposite sides of said link means defining end orifices of each bore, each washer means having a peripheral formation such that when the body is moulded to incorporate the fastener means and link means each washer means will be locked by the moulded material against displacement out of said body.
2. The assembly of a flexible coupling as claimed in claim 1, a drive shaft having an annular flange formed with a number of circumferentially spaced holes at least half the number of the fastener means, a driven shaft having an annular flange formed with a number of circumferentially spaced holes at least half the number of the fastener means and a plurality of bolts passing through respective said fastener means, half of the bolts fastening the coupling to the flange of the drive shaft and the other half of the bolts fastening the flange on the driven shaft to the coupling.
3. A flexible coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein said peripheral formation is a peripheral groove in each said washer means.
4. A flexible coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mouldable material is a thermosetting plastics material.
5. A flexible coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein the plastics material is a urethane polymer.
6. A flexible coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the washer means are of metal.

7. A flexible coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the link means are of composite material, each having openings at its opposite ends which will constitute part of two adjacent said bores, an even number of links in a stacked relationship between a pair of washer means constituting each said bore with alternate links extending to the bores on opposite sides of said first-mentioned bore.

8. A flexible coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the body has parallel faces from which the washer means project, the mouldable material being shaped to surround each washer means where it is proud of a body face.

9. A method of manufacturing the flexible coupling claimed in claim 1, the method comprising locating in a mould an annular array of circumferentially spaced fastening means comprising link means which extend between adjacent fastening means and washer means on opposite sides of the link means, introducing into the mould a thermosetting plastics material in a liquid state so that it incorporates the fastening means and link means and penetrates said formations of the washer means and curing the plastics material.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the mould is spun while a urethane polymer is introduced into it in a liquid state.

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